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The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley ,

I need your help. In September my husband left me and my two children, ages 6 years & 10 months. He is the father of the baby, but has not offered any financial support. I am in the process of filing on him. But meanwhile, I have gone back to the job I left before the baby's birth. My work allows me up to 30 hours per week at \$10 per hour. I am making under \$300/week to provide for us. I cannot afford child care on that wage. So, my dad left his home in Seneca, SC to come to the beach to baby sit for the first 3 weeks.

I applied for aid for "child care for low-income families" from the state at the local DSS Horry County office in Myrtle Beach. There was a delay in the results of my edibility due to the Hurricane Mathew evacuation. I had researched the web site: [schildcare.org](http://schildcare.org) on the SC Voucher Program (ABC Program). The site only stated two stipulations to qualify:

- Parent income must be below 150% of the federal poverty level based on family size for entrance into the SC Voucher Program; for a family of 4 this would be \$36,375 annually.
- SC Voucher supports work; parents must be working or attending school or training in order to be eligible for child care services.

I am working and earns less than \$15,600 annually. With anticipation of approval my dad enrolled the kids in Busy Bodies Child Care, so he could return home and I could continue work. He agreed to pay the cost for the two of them at \$258/week. He expected to only have to pay for one or two weeks before I was approved for assistance. On 10/11/16, I when to the DSS office and was told I was "denied". They offered no explanation, instead they instructed me to reapply to the state office.

My dad spoke with the chair of Horry County Council, Mark Lazarus. Mark suggested I speak with a group called *New Directions*. Danielle, a case manager, called a contact at DSS Columbia office. DSS still had my husband's income included. The DSS officer instructed me to see DSS Case Manager Andrew Sands to fix my problem.

I work till 4:00 and the DSS closes at 5:00, so these trips are quite difficult to make. The employees seem to be making the process as difficult as possible. After three visits to both the Conway and Myrtle Beach locations I had a meeting with another case manager 10/17/16. On Friday, I was told I was "denied". They said I had to make under \$800 per month to qualify. That is not what the web site states. They instructed me to reapply to the state office.

I need help NOW, not in two or three weeks!

My dad is disabled with a bone disease. He had proximal row wrist bone removal and four prosthetic joint surgeries. He has to pay for his portion of the hospital and doctor bills. He does not have the additional funds to assist me. Please help me.

Sincerely in need,



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